

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application and the rejection of claims 1-23 are respectfully requested. Applicants have attempted to address every objection and ground for rejection in the Office Action dated March 10, 2005 (Paper No. 20050306) and believe the application is now in condition for allowance. The claims have been amended to more clearly describe the present invention.

Applicants acknowledge the allowability of claims 3, 6, 10, 12, 13 and 15. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate features of canceled claim 3. Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate features of canceled claim 15. New claim 24 is a combination of claims 1 and 6, also indicated as being allowable.

The drawings stand objected to as failing to show apex 32. A replacement set of drawings is enclosed in which, on Sheet 1/5 in FIG. 1, the apex is shown. The drawings are also objected to because reference characters 50 and 36 have both been used to designate support structure. Applicants respectfully disagree with this objection. Reference number 36 refers to a lower portion of the retaining structure 22, as opposed to the blade guard portion 34. The lower portion 36 includes the first and second ends 45, 47, as well as the cantilever support 50 which is located between the ends 45, 47. See, p. 6, lines 3-5, 17-18; p. 7, lines 2-3 of the present application. Thus, the structure referred to by reference number 50 is a subset of that referred to by reference number 36. Accordingly, the drawing objection is respectfully traversed.

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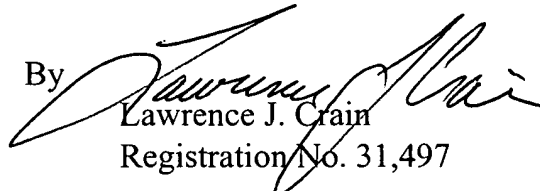
Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-11, 14, 16, 17 and 18-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by St. Peter (US 5,901,712). St. Peter discloses a curling iron with a cord storage structure located on an upper end of the iron incorporating the hair clamp handle. As amended, claim 1 now incorporates features of canceled claim 3, which has been indicated as allowable. Similarly, claim 11 has been amended to incorporate features of canceled claim 15. Claim 19 has been canceled and replaced by claim 24, which is a combination of original claims 1 and 6. Claims 20-23 as amended now depend directly or indirectly from claim 24. In view of the indication of allowability and the corresponding amendments, the rejection based on St. Peter is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that in view of the above-identified amendments and remarks, the claims in their present form are patentably distinct over the art of record. Allowance of the rejected claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner discover there are remaining issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, she is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Formal, revised drawings are attached in a separate document, in which
reference number 32 has been added to FIG. 1.